

Student Assistance Programming Briefing

Governor's School Safety Task Force

Education Work Group meeting

January 17, 2013

- Student Assistance Programming (SAP) offers a systematic and flexible approach for integrating and sustaining evidence-based practices, programs and strategies to enhance a positive school climate and safe school environment.
- SAP provides a framework and process for managing the continuum of social, emotional, and mental health supports for all students and intervention for those that need it.
- SAP uses a data-driven decision making process conducted by a planning team in each school to assess needs and monitor interventions.
- SAP engages students and parents at each level of prevention, intervention and support services.
- SAP builds and maintains collaborative partnerships with multiple community stakeholders – e.g., law enforcement agencies, community service boards, other behavioral health service providers, social services, the faith community, youth and family serve organizations, prevention councils.
- SAP changes priorities as determined by relevant data and review of existing plans, curriculum, practices, programs and strategies.

What does SAP look like in Virginia?

- The *2008 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Report* indicates that 63 (46.67 percent) out of 132 school divisions reported having SAP; however, 75, or about 56 percent reported implementing at least one component of SAP in the 2006-2007 school year.

Reported SAP Serving	# of School Divisions
Prek-5	38
6-8	65
9-12	67

- Components of SAP reported most prevalent among school divisions
 - Cooperating and collaborating with community agencies and resources,
 - Integration with school-based programs
 - Internal referral process for students of concern
- SAP training and publications were ranked as a high need among school divisions.

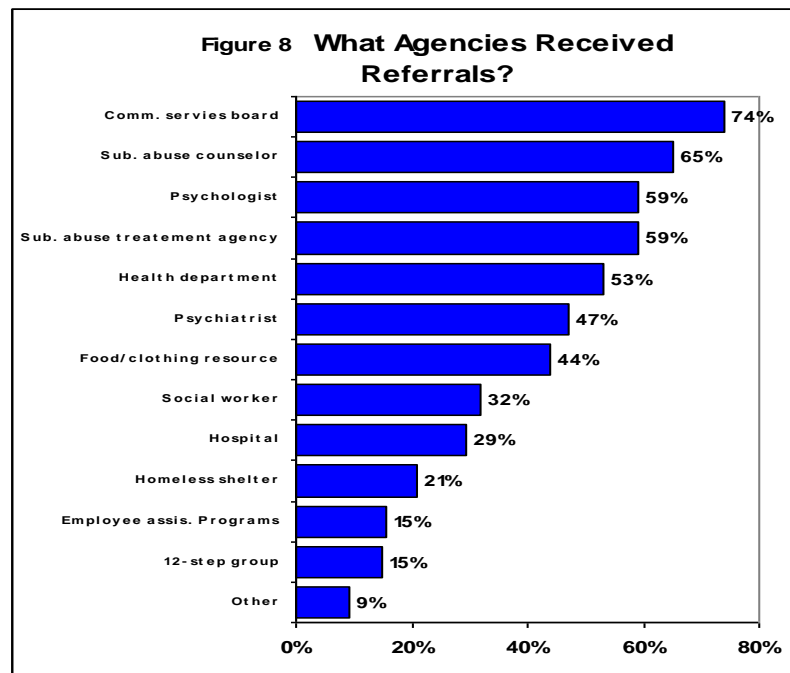
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- The *Student Assistance Programs in Virginia: 2006 Snapshot Status Report* indicates that 36 school divisions with SAP reported serving 297,700 students or 20.2% of the total student population in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
 - School Divisions with SAP reported the greatest satisfaction were their crisis response, substance abuse and violence prevention efforts.
 - Seventy-four percent of the school divisions reported that SAP staff serves as a community liaison.
 - Forty Community agency professionals work in the 36 school divisions as members of the SAP team and direct service providers.
 - SAP staff duties primarily include case management, student assessment or preassessment, counseling, community liaison work, and faculty consultation.
 - Approximately 2,800 students from 36 school divisions were referred for services outside of the school.



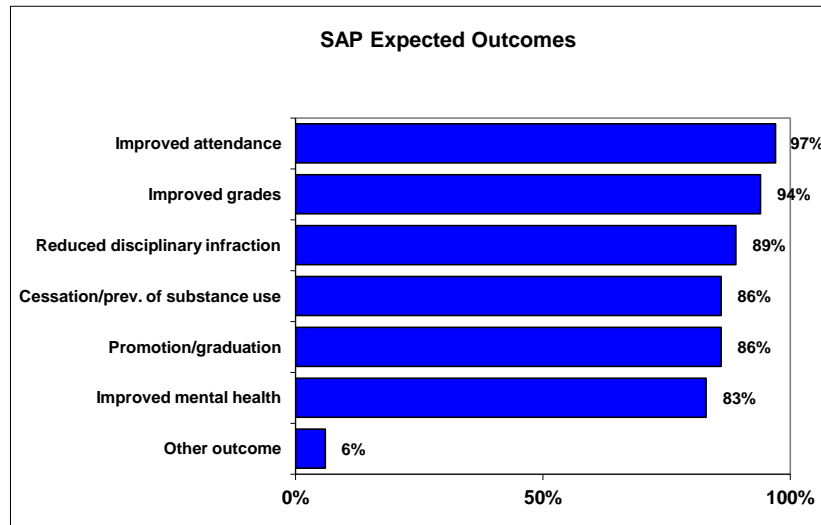
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- There was widespread agreement among school divisions of the expected outcomes of SAP.



- SAP plays a substantial role in Virginia's public schools. There are SAP services at all grade levels, although most are in the middle and high schools.
 - SAP services are not new to Virginia. Of the 36 programs identified in the *Student Assistance Programs in Virginia: 2006 Snapshot Status Report*, two-thirds have been in operation for ten or more years, and a quarter have been in operation more than twenty years. The large number and longevity of these programs is testament to the viability and vitality of the SAP model.
 - SAP administrative and staff practices vary significantly across school divisions. The SAP model is flexible enough to accommodate different needs and available resources among different school divisions and communities.
- New Publication: *Student Assistance Programming: Creating Positive Conditions For Learning* (January 2013)